

DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ

March 2009

DISTRICT II

KAHALU'U * KO'OLAULOA * NORTH SHORE * WAHIAWA * MILILANI MAUKA



COUNCIL CALENDAR 2009

Committee Meetings:

Wednesday, Apr. 22
Next full Council meeting

Tuesday, Apr. 7
Zoning - 9 am
Publ. Infrastructure - 1 pm

Wednesday, Apr. 8
Budget - 9 am
Executive Matters and Legal
Affairs - 1 pm

Thursday, Apr. 9
Transportation and Planning -
9:00 am
Public Safety and Services -
1:00 pm

- Times are subject to change

Legislation Proposes to Make Buildings More Energy Efficient

Aloha! As you know, I am a strong advocate for conservation and sustainability. Therefore, I have introduced Resolution 09-57 requesting the Mayor to apply for Federal Stimulus Package Funds, specifically energy grants, to help retrofit municipal buildings to be more energy efficient. The retrofitting of government buildings will help Honolulu reduce its dependency on fossil fuel and at the same time stimulate the economy by providing jobs.

Retrofitting is the addition of new technologies to older systems.

The resolution parallels President Barack Obama's statements at his first primetime press conference as president. He stated that by retrofitting buildings or weathering two million homes, we will immediately create jobs.

"That right there creates economic stimulus and we are saving taxpayers, when it comes to federal buildings, potentially \$2 billion."

President Obama also explained that retrofitting measures will lead to reducing America's dependence on foreign oil in the Middle East.

I believe that the City should support the President's efforts in stimulating our economy by following the Federal Government's lead in retrofitting their building to be more energy efficient. We can save taxpayers' monies long-term by reducing the city's energy consumption and create an opportunity for local jobs."

The expense of retrofitting will provide long-term energy savings and have a substantial benefit for the future. Karen Harbert, managing director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for 21st Century Energy, echoed the sentiments of President Obama, explaining that energy is not only an economic recovery device for today, but it will be creating jobs years from now.

Last year, I introduced many bills as part of an environmental package such as Bill 87 (2007) which would require all new building construction to meet minimum LEED standards and Resolution 07-357 which supports the construction and utilization of eco-roof technology. Sustainability measures are necessary and need to be implemented as soon as possible.

Year after year we continue to put conservation and sustainability projects on the backburner. I feel the City needs to be a role model and provide environmental leadership. I know we can do better!

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CITY COUNCIL



Haleiwa IGA Store Closes

A landmark of Haleiwa, the IGA store closed its doors for the last time on February 16, 2009. It has become an attraction to tourists and locals alike.

The store was founded in 1907 by the Sakai family. For generations, the store has been passed down, from father to son, but has always kept the country atmosphere without succumbing to modern trends in operation.

After almost 102 years of operation, Roy and Shinae Sakai will be entering a well-deserved retirement after their years of service to the community.



Council Honors Fan Favorite Race

On February 28, 2009, the City Council honored the Great Aloha Run on its 25th anniversary as one of the most popular run/walks on the island.

The event started with 12,000 runners and has grown to over 20,000 participants every race and has raised over \$7.6 million for over 100 non-profit health and human service organizations and community groups throughout Hawai'i. It has also been recognized as one of the 100 Greatest Road Races by Runner's World magazine.



Trinity Lutheran Career Day

Councilmember Dela Cruz attended Trinity Lutheran School's Career Day on February 19 to speak to students about the responsibilities of the Honolulu City Council.

The students asked a wide range of questions, touching upon issues such as the City's rail project, homelessness, and development issues.

Trinity Lutheran School, located in Wahiawa, is a member of the largest Protestant school system in the United States and serves the island of Oahu with quality, Christian education.

COUNCIL DISTRICT II STAFF

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Curbside recycling comes to Wahiawa

Starting May 2009, the city's new three-bin curbside recycling program will expand to Wahiawa and Whitmore. Cart deliveries to homes in these areas have begun in anticipation of the new collection system which is scheduled to begin the week of May 4th.

Honolulu's Curbside Recycling program is the result of a strong push by the Honolulu City Council and environmental advocates to get a curbside recycling program implemented in Honolulu. This push culminated in the 2006 election where voters overwhelmingly supported a Charter proposal that instructed the City to institute a curbside recycling program.

Following the City Charter Amendment vote in November 2006, the City Department of Environmental Services developed a proposal for a new curbside recycling program for Honolulu. The City Administration held community meetings around the island in April and May of 2007 to gather resident input, and Mililani and Hawaii Kai were chosen as the communities for the City's curbside recycling pilot project. The new three-bin collection system was launched in Mililani and Hawaii Kai in October 2007.

Results from the pilot project were used to develop the city's current curbside recycling program which now encompasses East Oahu and the North shore area.

Wahiawa and Whitmore comprise part of the City's 3rd phase of the curbside recycling expansion, which also includes Waipio Gentry to Halawa, Kaneohe, and Waimanalo.

In the new system, one collection day will be for refuse in the gray cart and the 2nd collection day is for recycling pickup, alternating weekly between the green carts (green wastes) and blue carts (mixed recyclables).

The Department of Environmental Services has notified my office that there will be a one-month transition period where the City will continue to collect refuse two times per week in addition to the recycling pickup in order to help ease the integration of the expansion areas into the new system, but starting June 1, refuse carts in Wahiawa and Whitmore will no longer be serviced on the recycling day.

Affected residents should receive a follow-up brochure by mail during the third week of May to remind them of the upcoming change in their collection system.

Please call my office at 768-5002 should you have any questions regarding the curbside recycling expansion.

Announcing! Benefit for low-income individuals and families: Earned Income Tax Credit Program

This program is to assist those individuals earning less than \$12,880 per year or up to \$41,646 in wages for couples filing jointly with more than one child. Those applying would benefit with up to \$438 for individuals with no children and up to \$4,824 for couples filing jointly with two or more children.

These benefits, in most cases do not affect the person's income for low income housing, Medicare, supplemental social security, food stamps or most other temporary assistance for needy families.

FREE HELP for all those who would like to find out if they are eligible and how to apply:

- 1) VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program) at (800) 829-1040.

This program is to assist people who need help preparing their tax returns and is open to low-to-moderate income (generally under \$42,000). Call to find the nearest local site.

- 2) AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) Tax-Aide Program at (888) 687-2277.

Call to find the nearest location. (7,000 nationwide)

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CITY COUNCIL

Full Council Action Items

The following actions were taken by the City Council on **February 25, 2009**:

For Consideration

- Bill 67 (2008), FD1 - Relating to the use of electronic devices while operating motor vehicles. (Council option to override mayor's veto)

Third Reading

- Bill 65 (2008) - Rezoning land in Pupukea, North Shore, Oahu, Hawaii. (Rezoning land from P-2 General Preservation District to AG-2 General Agricultural District.) (Deadline: 4/3/09)

First Reading

- Bill 4 - Relating to the use of electronic devices while operating motor vehicles. (Prohibiting the use of certain electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle.)
- Bill 6 - Relating to vehicle immobilization. (Instituting a vehicle immobilization program in the City, with the effective date of the ordinance conditioned upon the amendment of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to authorize the City to implement the program as well as retain all boot fees collected.)
- Bill 8 - Relating to transit. (Changing a portion of the Locally Preferred Alternative alignment from Halekauwila Street to Queen Street.)
- Bill 10 - Relating to real property tax credits. (Providing a one-time real property tax credit to eligible owners of real property.)
- Bill 11 - Relating to real property tax incentives for new construction. (Addressing the anticipated slowdown in construction by providing a real property tax exemption for new and accelerated construction on Oahu.)
- Bill 12 - Relating to issuance of City permits for certain projects. (Requiring that the permit processing time be shortened for the State projects built in the City that are included in the State's collaborative infrastructure improvement plan of statewide capital improvement projects.)

Second Reading/Public Hearing

- Bill 60 (2008), CD1 - Relating to park permits. (Instituting a fee to obtain a permit required for certain uses of City parks.)
- Bill 70 (2008), CD1 - Relating to signs. (Amending certain Land Use Ordinance provisions relating to sign regulations, with the intention of increasing the efficacy of sign master plans and improving equity in the application of certain sign regulations, and with particular regard for the Waikiki Special District.) (Deadline: 3/30/09)

Appointments

- Resolution 09-7 - Relating to the nomination of Kirk W. Caldwell as Managing Director of the City and County of Honolulu.

District 2 Neighborhood Board Meeting Schedule January 2009

Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board	KEY Project	4/8/09
Ko'olauloa Neighborhood Board	Hau'ula Civic Center	4/9/09
Mililani Mauka/Launani Valley	Mililani Mauka Elementary Cafeteria	4/21/09
Wahiawa Neighborhood Board	Wahiawa District Park	4/20/09
North Shore Neighborhood Board	John Kalili Surf Center	4/28/09